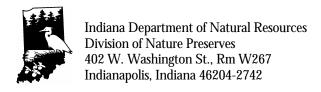
An Inventory of Special Plants and Natural Areas within the U.S. Army Jefferson Proving Ground, in Southeastern Indiana

March 1993

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Dear Reader,

This report on special plants and natural areas within Jefferson Proving Ground is another example of the professional excellence found in the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. It also moves us closer to our goal of adequately protecting the most important remnants of Indiana's natural heritage. I am proud to submit this report with the hopes that it will help guide decision-makers in the protection and management of the natural features of Jefferson Proving Ground.

Sincerely,

Patrick R. Ralston Director Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Ken Knouf, Resource manager at Jefferson Proving Ground, for his cooperation and assistance during this study; the Department of the Army, who provided funding for this project; Ron Hellmich and Jean Fix, interns with the Heritage Data Center, for assistance with field work; and also the State of Indiana, Department of Natural Resources for the continuing support of the Division of Nature Preserves and the Natural Heritage Data Center's work of finding and protecting Indiana's remaining natural areas and natural diversity.

Illustration credits go to Cheryl M. LeBlanc, pg. 35; Paul Nelson, pg. 38, 41, 42; and Colleen Baker, pg 36, 37, 39, 40, 43. The photographs were taken by Michael A. Homoya.

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An Inventory of Special Plants and Natural Areas within the U.S. Army Jefferson Proving Ground in Southeastern Indiana

Introduction

Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Nature Preserves, was established in 1967 and charged with locating, evaluating and preserving the state's best remaining examples of natural areas. The Indiana Natural Heritage Data Center, within the Division of Nature Preserves, was established in 1978 and given the responsibility of collecting data regarding the state's rarest plants, animals, natural communities and other natural features. The Heritage Data Center collects and maintains this information, from both current and historical sources, in a computerized and mapped data base. With this information, the Division began a systematic, county-by-county inventory of the remaining natural areas (including rare species habitats) in the state.

As part of the management goals and planning, Jefferson Proving Ground (JPG) is seeking to identify and protect special areas within the property that are representative of the natural diversity of Indiana. These special areas include sites that support endangered and threatened plant and animal species as well as significant natural communities and natural features.

This inventory of natural areas and special plant species within JPG has been prepared by the Division of Nature Preserves under MIPR Number B2-1-8C823-B2-NR. This inventory is part of the on-going effort by the Division to identify, evaluate and properly manage areas of state and federal significance. The information will also be very useful to the Department of Defense in deciding on possible reuse options for JPG. This report summarizes the inventory of special plant species and natural areas within JPG.

Study Area

Location:

The Jefferson Proving Ground (JPG) is a 55,000 acre area in southeastern Indiana in Ripley, Jennings, and Jefferson Counties (Figure 1). JPG is located in the region centered around 38° 56' 07'' North latitude and 85° 25' 01'' West longitude. The area is roughly bounded by County Road 400 West on the west side, County Road 500 North on the south side, Michigan Road on the east side, and County Road 100 South on the north side.

Landscape:

The JPG consists primarily of poorly drained flats in various stages of succession from open fields to regrowth forested flatwoods. (Flatwoods are forested areas that occur on level or nearly level soils that are poorly drained, having a shallow perched water table.) Soils are predominantly Cobbsfork (Clermont) and Avonburg silt loams in the flats. Also present are wooded stream valleys with better drainage. Community types inventoried included bottomland forests, upland forests, and cliffs along these major drainages.

Watershed:

Major drainages include Otter Creek and Little Otter Creek in the extreme northern portion of the property, Graham Creek and Little Graham Creek in the north-central portion of the property, and Big Creek in the southern part of the property. Otter Creek, Little Otter Creek, Graham Creek, and Little Graham Creek all flow through portions of Jennings and Ripley Counties in JPG. Big Creek is restricted to Jefferson County in JPG.

Natural Regions:

Natural regions are distinct areas grouped together by similar natural features, including climate, soils, glacial history, topography, exposed bedrock, presettlement vegetation, species composition, physiography, and flora and fauna. In Indiana, there are 12 primary Natural Regions (Homoya et al. 1985) and 20 Sections or Subtypes within these Regions (Figure 1). The JPG is confined to the Muscatatuck Flats and Canyons Section of the Bluegrass Natural Region.

Bluegrass Natural Region: This natural region is identified and named not for a predominance of bluegrass (Poa spp.), but for similarities of the physiography and natural communities to the Bluegrass Region of Kentucky. Traditionally, this portion of Indiana has not been considered a part of the Interior Low Plateaus Bluegrass Region as outlined by Fenneman. However, several geologists have pointed out similarities in the Kentucky Bluegrass Region and the Indiana area, including Malott and Ray, the latter placing them together in the Bluegrass part of the Interior Low Plateaus. Major portions of three of Malott's physiographic regions are included in the Bluegrass Natural Region: the Dearborn Upland, the Muscatatuck Regional Slope, and the Scottsburg Lowland. The three sections of this natural region, the Switzerland Hills Section, the Muscatatuck Flats and Canyons Section, and the Scottsburg Lowland Section, approximate the area of these physiographic units.

Although the entire natural region has been covered by one or more of the pre-Wisconsin ice sheets, today much of it is mantled by only a relatively thin veneer of till. The northern boundary of the region approximates the southern terminus of Wisconsinan glaciation. This boundary marks the northern limit in this region for several southern plant species, as well as many herpetofaunal species.

Most of the natural region was originally forested, although a few glade, cliff, and barrens remnants are known, as well as non-forested aquatic communities.

Muscatatuck Flats and Canyons Section: This section consists primarily of a broad, relatively flat west-sloping plain with steep-walled canyons entrenched by major streams. The plain is characterized best by the presence of poorly drained, acidic Cobbsfork and Avonburg silt loam soils and the occurrence of a southern flatwoods natural community type. These flatwoods typically have beech (Fagus grandifolia), red maple (Acer rubrum), sweetgum (Liquidambar styraciflua), pin oak (Quercus palustris), swamp chestnut oak (Q. michauxii), and tulip tree (Liriodendron tulipifera). A few species are restricted geographically here, including fox grape (Vitis labrusca), blunt-lobed grape-fern (Botrychium oneidense), swamp dewberry (Rubus hispidus), dwarf ginseng (Panax trifolium) and false lily-of-the-valley (Maianthemum canadense). In canyons, cliffs and slopes of Silurian and Devonian limestone provide an environment quite unlike the flats. These sites are comparatively rich floristically, and have a predominantly mixed mesophytic forest composition. Canada violet (Viola canadensis), long-spurred violet (V. rostrata), and crinkleroot (Dentaria diphylla) are more common here than elsewhere in southern Indiana. American pennywort (Hydrocotyle americana), wideleaf ladies'-tresses (Spiranthes lucida), and Carex pedunculata are restricted geographically here. Sullivantia (Sullivantia sullivantii) and golden St. John'swort (Hypericum frondosum) are known in Indiana only from canyons in this section. The dusky salamander (Desmognathus fuscus) is a distinctive species of this section and Bluegrass Natural Region. Non-forested community types include small areas of limestone gravel wash and limestone glade, the latter harboring the only Indiana occurrence of Michaux leavenworthia (Leavenworthia uniflora). Minor areas of karst topography occur along valley borders. The major aquatic features include medium-gradient streams with beds of pavement-like limestone, such as Graham Creek, Big Creek, and the upper stretches of the Vernon Fork of the Muscatatuck River.

Methods

Potential Natural Communities:

To locate rare species in an area, it is helpful to first determine the natural communities present, and then determine those species anticipated to occur in them.

A natural community is a group of organisms that are interrelated to each other and their environment. The natural community concept is a useful way to categorize the natural landscape because it is operative at a scale which relates well to conservation initiatives, including rare plant protection. Using the Indiana Heritage natural community classification (Homoya et al.), there are nine potential natural community types in the survey area (Table I).

Table I. Jefferson Proving Ground potential natural communities, including brief descriptions.

Natural Community	Descriptions				
Bluegrass Till Plain Flatwoods	Forested areas on level or nearly level soils that are poorly drained, having a shallow perched water table. Primary tree species include red maple (<i>Acer rubrum</i>), sweetgum (<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>), black gum (<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>), pin oak (<i>Quercus palustris</i>), swamp chestnut oak (<i>Q. michauxii</i>), swamp white oak (<i>Q. bicolor</i>), American beech (<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>), and tulip tree (<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>).				
Mesic Upland Forest	Forested uplands on moist but well drained soils. Trees include beech (Fagus grandifolia), sugar maple (Acer saccharum), tulip tree (Liriodendron tulipifera).				
Dry-mesic Upland Forest	Forested uplands on well drained slopes. Trees include white oak (<i>Quercus alba</i>), red oak (<i>Q. rubra</i>), black oak (<i>Q. velutina</i>), shagbark hickory (<i>Carya ovata</i>).				
Limestone Cliff	Vertical exposures of resistant bedrock; soils are generally non-existent. Plants include bulblet fern (<i>Cystopteris bulbifera</i>), columbine (<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>), live forever (<i>Sedum ternatum</i>), and wild hydrangea (<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i>).				
Mesic Floodplain Forest	Forested floodplains which are infrequently flooded for short periods of time. Soils are well drained. Trees include beech (<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>), sugar maple (<i>Acer saccharum</i>), tulip tree (<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>).				
Medium- gradient Stream	Gradient of 1 to 10 feet per mile (0.2 to 1.9 m per km). Includes larger riffles, pools, sand and gravel bars.				
Marsh	Herbaceous wetland with more or less permanent non-flowing water. Species are cattail (<i>Typha latifolia</i>), sedges (<i>Cyperaceae</i>).				
Terrestrial Cave	A solution or collapse feature, or a crevice underground. Animals may include bat species, salamanders, and various invertebrates.				
Circumneutral Seep	Spring-fed wetland on organic soil, usually along major drainages at the base of a slope. Species include sedge (<i>Carex</i>), marsh marigold (<i>Caltha palustris</i>), skunk cabbage (<i>Symplocarpus foetidus</i>), boneset (<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>).				

Potential Rare Plant Species:

The Indiana Natural Heritage Data Center is a continuously updated data management system for the conservation of biological diversity. The Heritage database contains locations of all rare species in Indiana, both historical collections and recent discoveries. Using the Heritage database, a list of all rare plants known from Jefferson, Jennings, and Ripley Counties was produced. Using additional knowledge of the Indiana flora of the Bluegrass Natural Region, staff botanists then annotated that list to produce a final list of potential rare plants (Table II).

Table II. Potential extirpated, endangered, threatened, rare, and watch list plants for Jefferson Proving Ground.

Species name	Common name		Status
Aesculus octandra Agalinis fasciculata Antennaria solitaria Arabis patens Asplenium ruta-muraria	yellow buckeye clustered foxglove single-head pussytoes spreading rockcress wallrue spleenwort		R E WL E T
Bartonia paniculata Botrychium biternatum Botrychium oneidense	twining bartonia sparse-lobe grape-fern blunt-lobe grape-fern		E T R
Carex eburnea Carex louisianica Carex pedunculata Carex seorsa Cyperus pseudovegetus	ebony sedge Louisiana sedge longstalk sedge weak stellate sedge green flat sedge		T R R T E
Dentaria diphylla Dentaria multifida	crinklroot divided toothwort		R E
Eleocharis wolfii	wolf spikerush		T, C2
Galactia volubilis var. mississippiensis	eastern milk-pea		WL
Hydrocotyle americana Hypericum frondosum	American water-pennywort golden St. John'swort		E X
Lilium canadense Linum striatum Linum sulcatum Lycopodium clavatum Lycopodium hickeyi	Canada lily ridged yellow flax grooved yellow flax running pine Hickey's clubmoss		T R T R
Oenothera perennis Oryzopsis racemosa Oxalis illinoensis	small sundrops black-fruit mountain-ricegrass Illinois woodsorrel	Т	R R
Panax trifolium Penstemon canescens Poa alsodes Poa wolfii	dwarf ginseng gray beardtongue grove meadow grass wolf bluegrass		R T T

Table II. cont.

Ranunculus laxicaulis	Mississippi buttercup	Е
Ranunculus pusillus	pursh buttercup	E
Rubus centralis	Illinois blackberry	T
Salix caroliniana	Carolina willow	WL
Selaginella apoda	meadow spike-moss	R
Solidago hispida	hairy goldenrod	WL
Spiranthes lucida	shining ladies'-tresses	T
Spiranthes ovalis	lesser ladies'-tresses	WL
Sullivantia sullivantii	sullivantia	E
Thalictrum polygamum	meadowrue	Т
Triadenum tubulosum	large marsh St. John'swort	WL
Trifolium stoloniferum	running buffalo clover	E, LE
Viola blanda	smooth white violet	R
Waldsteinia fragarioides	barren strawberry	T
Wisteria macrostachya	Kentucky wisteria	T

State Status: E - Endangered; T - Threatened; R - Rare; WL - Watch List; X - Extirpated

Federal Status: C2 - Candidate for Listing; LE - Listed Endangered

Potential Natural Areas (PNAs):

With the lists of potential natural communities and rare plants in mind, JPG was studied using aerial photographs, U.S. Geological Survey 7.5′ Quadrangle maps, the Ripley, Jennings, and Jefferson County Soil Surveys, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wetland Inventory maps. In addition, Division of Nature Preserves' Heritage database and natural area files for Jefferson, Jennings, and Ripley County were checked. The goal was to select those areas which appeared to have the greatest potential for significant natural communities and/or rare species. These areas with the greatest potential included: (a) habitats which were the least disturbed (e.g. old growth forest); (b) habitats which appeared most dissected (e.g. steep wooded ravines and cliffs); (c) habitats which were wettest. These were delineated on U.S. Geological Survey 7.5′ Quadrangle maps which cover the area.

Field Assessment:

During the 1992 growing season, PNAs were surveyed in the field to determine the presence of rare plant species, and the type and quality of the natural communities present. The PNAs which were checked are shown in Figure 2. Several PNAs were not checked because of access limitations and/or restrictions. Field work began in April and ended in September.

Results

Natural Areas:

The highest quality natural communities exhibit the least amount of past disturbance: large tree canopies; good structure and composition; lack of exotic species. Table III shows the community types present within those natural areas which exhibited the highest natural quality. These highest quality natural areas are shown in Figure 3.

Table III. High Quality Natural Areas at JPG.

7.5' Quad. Township, Range, Section		Natural Community		
Holton	T7N R10E S18	Mesic Upland Forest		
	T7N R10E NWQ S19	Mesic Upland Forest, Dry-mesic Upland Forest, Limestone Cliff		
	T7N R10E S19, SWQ S20, NW & SWQ S29, NE & SEQ S30	Mesic Upland Forest, Dry-mesic Upland Forest, Dry Upland Forest, Limestone Cliff		
	T7N R9E SEQ S24, NEQ S25 & T7N R10E SWQ S19, NWQ S30	Mesic Upland Forest, Dry-mesic Upland Forest, Limestone Cliff		
	T7N R10E NEQ S31	Flatwoods		
San Jacinto	T6N R10E SEQ S21, SWQ S22	Flatwoods		

Natural Communities:

Historically, the majority of JPG consisted of forested natural communities, predominantly flatwoods. Today, these areas are in various stages of regrowth or succession, ranging from open flats to relatively mature flatwoods. Other community types inventoried include floodplain forests, mesic upland forests, dry-mesic upland forests, and cliffs along or in the vicinity of the major drainages. See Appendix C for color photographs of some of the natural communities discussed below.

Flatwoods

The flatwoods at JPG are the southern or bluegrass till plain natural community type and are characterized by having poorly drained acidic soils, predominantly Cobbsfork silt loams, and to a lesser degree Avonburg silt loams. These areas are in various stages of succession, ranging from open flats to regrowth flatwoods. Disturbances from past agricultural uses, and more recently fire are evident in most areas. These disturbances are undoubtedly a factor in species density and diversity. Although there is overlap of species among the various stages of successional flats, there are some noticeable differences in composition. See Appendix A for a list of species characteristic of this community type (includes all successional stages).

Bluegrass Till Plain Flatwoods: Characteristic species in this community are red maple (Acer rubrum), sweetgum (Liquidambar styraciflua), black gum (Nyssa sylvatica), pin oak (Quercus palustris), American beech (Fagus grandifolia), and tulip tree (Liriodendron tulipifera). More mature flatwoods tended to have more of an oak component and included swamp white oak (Quercus bicolor) and swamp chestnut oak (Q. michauxii). Cleared open flats were characterized by spike-rush (Eleocharis tenuis), early goldenrod (Solidago juncea), beard-tongue (Penstemon digitalis), narrow-leaved mountain mint (Pycnanthemum tenuifolium), boneset (Eupatorium perfoliatum), hyssop-leaved boneset (E. hyssopifolium), and hardhack (Spiraea tomentosa).

Upland Forest

Most of the upland forest, aside from flatwoods, occurs at the north end of JPG, in areas dissected by the major westward-flowing streams and their tributaries, e.g., Otter Creek, Graham Creek, Little Graham Creek, etc. The major type, by far, is mesic upland forest. There are also areas of dry-mesic forest on some of the south-facing slopes, and even a few, very small areas of dry forest. See Appendix A for a list of species characteristic of this community type. Brief descriptions are as follows:

Mesic Upland Forest: Mesic upland forests in this section of the Bluegrass Natural Region typically have a mix of canopy dominants (= mixed mesophytic). Characteristic trees include American beech (Fagus grandifolia), sugar maple (Acer saccharum), black maple (A. nigrum), tulip tree (Liriodendron tulipifera), white ash (Fraxinus americana), red oak (Quercus rubra), American basswood (Tilia americana), black walnut (Juglans nigra), and black cherry (Prunus serotina). Herbs are many, particularly the spring ephemerals.

<u>Dry-mesic Upland Forest</u>: This forest type is less common than the above, occurring mainly on better drained upper slopes that have a south or west aspect. Oaks are more common on these sites, including chinquapin oak (*Quercus muhlenbergii*), white oak (*Q. alba*), and some black oak (*Q. velutina*). Other dominants include shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*), blue ash (*Fraxinus quadrangulata*), white ash (*F. americana*), and hop hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*). Because of the small area of this type at JPG, and the overlap between it and the mesic forest, species found here are included in Appendix A.

<u>Dry Upland Forest</u>: This is a very uncommon type at JPG, restricted to the crests of the steepest, rockiest, south and southwest facing slopes. The reason for the rarity is perhaps due to the relatively deep, rich soils that occur in the entrenched valleys of the till plain. Such soils apparently retain sufficient moisture to preclude the development of dry forests. Some canopy trees are black oak (*Quercus velutina*), scarlet oak (*Q. coccinea*), white oak (*Q. alba*), redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), and red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*). Characteristic species include poverty grass (*Danthonia spicata*), leather

flower (Clematis viorna), nodding onion (Allium cernuum), low bush blueberry (Vaccinium pallidum), hairy hawkweed (Hieraceum gronovii), and Carex artitecta.

Floodplain Forest

Because of the few sizable streams that flow through the property, and the narrowness of the valleys through which they flow, floodplain forests are a rather minor component of JPG's forest system. For the most part, they are similar to some of the mesic ravine flora, but other species, more tolerant of wetness, are also present. American sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), Eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), boxelder (*Acer negundo*), silver maple (*A. saccharinum*), red maple (*A. rubrum*), bluebells (*Mertensia virginiana*), false mermaid weed (*Floerka proserpinacoides*), blue-eyed Mary's (*Collinsia verna*), and cutleaf coneflower (*Rhudbeckia laciniata*) are typical.

Limestone Cliff

All cliffs observed at JPG were composed of limestone. They are for the most part small, and confined to the borders of the larger westward-flowing streams at the northern end of the property, e.g., Otter Creek, Graham Creek, etc. Some smaller cliffs and isolated boulders were noted on the higher slopes of hills in the above-mentioned stream systems. Limestone cliffs are typically rather rich floristically, and are prime areas for rare species, e.g. Dentaria diphylla and Veratrum woodii. Characteristic species include columbine (Aquilegia canadensis), Hepatica (Hepatica acutiloba), bulblet fern (Cystopteris bulbifera), live forever (Sedum ternatum), wild hydrangea (Hydrangea arborescens), blue ash (Fraxinus quadrangulata), and running euonymus (Euonymus obovatus).

Rare Plants:

Twenty-nine species of listed plants were found during the survey (Table IV). The locations of these species are shown on general site maps (Figure 4). These species are described in Appendix B, and nine of them are illustrated in Appendix C.

Table IV. Endangered, threatened, rare and watch list plants discovered in Jefferson Proving Ground.

Species name	Common name	Status
Agalinis fasiculata	clustered foxglove	Е
Bartonia paniculata	twining bartonia	E
Botrychium oneidense	blunt-lobe grape-fern	R
Carex abscondita	thicket sedge	WL
Carex louisianica	Louisiana sedge	R
Carex woodii	pretty sedge	R
Chimaphila maculata	spotted wintergreen	WL
Cimicifuga racemosa	black bugbane	WL
Crotonopsis elliptica	elliptical rushfoil	E
Dentaria diphylla	crinkleroot	R
Eupatorium rotundifolium	round-leaved boneset	E
Hydrastis canadensis	goldenseal	WL
Linum striatum	ridged yellow flax	R
Lycopodium clavatum	running pine	R
Lycopodium obscurum	tree clubmoss	E
Lygodium palmatum	climbing fern	E
	-	

Oenothera perennis	small sundrops	R
Panax quinquefolium	American ginseng	WL
Panax trifolium	dwarf ginseng	R
Platanthera lacera	green-fringed orchis	WL
Platanthera peramoena	purple fringeless orchis	WL
Rhexia mariana var. mariana	Maryland meadow beauty	E
Sagittaria australis	longbeak arrowhead	E
Spiranthes ovalis	lesser ladies'-tresses	R
Spiranthes tuberosa	little ladies'-tresses	R
Strophostyles leiosperma	slick seed wild-bean	T
Veratrum woodii	false hellebore	WL
Viola blanda	smooth white violet	R
Woodwardia areolata	netted chain-fern	E

Status: E - Endangered; T - Threatened; R - Rare; WL - Watch List

 $Figure\ 4a.\ Location\ of\ listed\ species\ found\ in\ the\ northern\ section\ of\ Jefferson\ Proving\ Ground\ (map\ next\ page).$

1 =	Bartonia paniculata	7 =	Botrychium oneidense	16 =	Carex louisianica
	Lycopodium obscurum		Panax trifolium		
			Sagittaria australis	17 =	Agalinis fasciculata
2 =	Bartonia paniculata				Bartonia paniculata
	Lygodium palmatum	8 =	Dentaria diphylla		Eupatorium rotundifolium
	Viola blanda		Viola blanda		Lycopodium clavatum
	Woodwardia areolata				
		9 =	Dentaria diphylla	18 =	Carex abscondita
3 =	Carex louisianica				Lycopodium clavatum
	Linum striatum	10 =	Veratrum woodii		Viola blanda
	Spiranthes ovalis				
		11 =	Dentaria diphylla	19 =	Bartonia paniculata
4 =	Platanthera lacera		Veratrum woodii		Carex louisianica
	Viola blanda				Eupatorium rotundifolium
		12 =	Veratrum woodii		Lycopodium clavatum
5 =	Carex woodii				Lycopodium obscurum
	Cimicifuga racemosa	13 =	Spiranthes tuberosa		Platanthera lacera
	Hydrastis canadensis		•		Woodwardia areolata
	Panax quinquefolium	14 =	Agalinis fasciculata		
	• •		Crotonopsis elliptica	20 =	Bartonia paniculata
6 =	Bartonia paniculata		Strophostyles leiosperma		Eupatorium rotundifolium
	Chimaphila maculata		1		Lycopodium obscurum
	Lycopodium clavatum	15 =	Dentaria diphylla		Viola blanda
	<i>y</i> 1		Veratrum woodii		Woodwardia areolata

- 21 = Eupatorium rotundifolium
- 22 = Oenothera perennis
- 23 = Oenothera perennis Rhexia virginica (regionally rare)
- 24 = Lycopodium clavatum Platanthera lacera Woodwardia areolata
- 25 = Oenothera perennis
- 26 = Agalinis fasciculata
 Platanthera peramoena
 Rhexia mariana var. mariana
 Rhynchospora capitellata

Figure 4b. Location of listed species found in the southern section of Jefferson Proving Ground.

Recommendations for Management and Protection of Natural Areas, Natural Communities and Biodiversity, Including Special Plant Species

There is a tremendous amount of biological diversity present within the confines of JPG, as well as the presence of good quality natural communities. Maintaining the communities and natural diversity of JPG will require continued management and protection. We recommended the following: 1) consider a large portion of JPG as an ecosystem reserve; 2) designate the highest quality natural communities (natural areas), the best rare species sites, and selected clusters of these smaller sites as Research Natural Areas, or State Nature Preserves; 3) control exotic species; 4) restrict timber harvest (in select areas); 5) control frequency and timing of mowing; 6) maintain natural hydrology; 7) use prescribed fire; 8) conduct additional evaluations site by site as areas are cleaned up.

1) Regional Significance of JPG

JPG sits on a flat plain known as the "Illinoian Till Plain" which was created thousands of years ago by the Illinoian ice sheet. This plain is an area of glaciated terrain which covers parts of several midwestern states. The vegetation on a small portion of this plain, occurring in southeastern Indiana, southwestern Ohio, and a sliver of Kentucky is quite distinct from the vegetation typical of the rest of the Illinoian Till Plain. (In Indiana, this area is equivalent to the Muscatatuck Flats and Canyons Section of the Bluegrass Natural Region.) E. Lucy Braun, a noted forest ecologist, stated in her book, Deciduous Forests of Eastern North America, that "the area of Illinoian glaciation in southwestern Ohio and southeastern Indiana is vegetationally distinct from the Bluegrass to the south and the younger glaciated land to the north". She wrote that the forests were made up of a wide variety of successional types with sweetgum (Liquidambar styraciflua) being a major component, and American beech (Fagus grandifolia) and white oak (Quercus alba) being dominant in more mature stands.

Most of the original forest of this region, including much of what is now JPG, were cleared for agriculture. This coversion was especially thorough because of the flat terrain present in this region. While most of the surrounding land is still in agricultural use, JPG, because of the special military uses has largely reverted to forest and other natural vegetation types. During this study, we have observed an almost overwhelming variety of successional natural vegetation types, as well as mature forests, which uniquely represent the vegetation of this entire region. Nowhere can such an assortment of the region's natural heritage be found; it just does not exist, especially at the scale found in JPG, anywhere else.

Although this survey did not include animals, we know that JPG also provides a refuge for most, if not all, animal species native to the region. In addition, JPG offers a relatively unfragmented block of habitat for many species of animals which are otherwise declining as a result of habitat fragmentation.

Thus, JPG is extremely important, not just as a large block of land with lots of rare plants and animals living there, but as a regional treasure containing an ecosystem-sized cross section of a distinct vegetation association. In addition, there is no other tract of public land even remotely close in size to JPG in this region, making this installation even more important. Based on these factors, we recommend that, during the reuse options discussions, very serious consideration be given to the conservation of a large portion of JPG as an ecosystem reserve. The combination of high quality natural areas, rare species, lack of habitat fragmentation, and the absence of unexploded ordinance makes the area north of K road an excellent candidate for this designation. This opportunity to protect such a large, functional example of the biota of this region will almost certainly never come again.

Synopsis: Consider a large portion of JPG as an ecosystem reserve.

2) Those areas which were found to be the best natural areas (exhibited the least amount of disturbance) and those areas which contain the best populations of rare species are very important biological assets. Some areas which were surveyed are clustered within large blocks of continuous habitat. We recommend designating these blocks as Research Natural Areas. Also, should these blocks be excessed, we recommend that they be protected as State Nature Preserves. Refer back to Figure 3 which shows these proposed protected areas.

Synopsis: Protect the best blocks as Research Natural Areas, or as State Nature Preserves.

3) Exotic species are some of the greatest threats to native biota. They tend to displace species, and thus reduce overall diversity. Several invasive exotic species were noted but the most serious include Japanese honey-suckle (Lonicera japonica), yellow king-devil hawkweed (Hieracium caespitosum), tall fescue (Festuca pratensis), Eulalia grass (Microstegium vimineum), moneywort (Lysimachia nummularia), and garlic mustard (Alliaria petiolata). All are particularly serious and difficult to control once they reach large numbers. Thus, in controlling exotics, it is infinitely easier to prevent their proliferation than to attempt to reduce large existing populations. Surveillance for the appearance of new exotic populations, and quick eradication upon discovery, is essential. Fortunately, much of the JPG landscape is free from serious exotics contamination. However, there are problem areas, and others that will be future problems if not treated. Because most of these exotics prefer alkaline substrates, they are most prevalent at JPG in the drainages entrenched through limestone, e.g., Otter Creek, Graham Creek, etc. Fortunately, the acidic flats are relatively free of exotics, save for the occurrence of the yellow king-devil hawkweed, and areas inten-tionally planted with them, e.g., roadsides, lawns, and the like. In regard to the latter, our recommendation is to avoid planting non-native plants, even along roadsides, ditches, and rights-of-ways. Our observation is that native species (e.g., rushes, grasses, sedges) quickly colonize disturbed sites, increasing diversity locally, precluding the need for exotics such as fescue.

Synopsis: Survey landscape for exotics; eradicate where feasible; do not plant invasive exotics.

4) We believe it would be desirable to manage certain areas for old growth timber. This would benefit those species that perhaps do best under such conditions (e.g., forest interior birds), and would add to the overall diversity of age and size classes of JPG forests. We recommend that old growth management at least include sites that are identified as important areas in this report. Forest—on steep and/or rocky slopes, adjacent to cliffs, or in riparian areas—should also be considered for harvest free zones. Forested sites harboring rare species should also be under old growth management where appropriate.

<u>Synopsis</u>: Manage for old growth timber in areas that are important natural and rare species areas, that harbor or have potential for rare species (such as cliffs), and are subject to erosion.

5) Mowed rights-of-ways and shoulders of roads are important habitats for many sun-loving native species, including several rare ones, e.g., Maryland meadow beauty (*Rhexia mariana* var. *mariana*) and small sundrops (*Oenothera perennis*). These species do best where the frequency of mowing is not great, and there is not a dense turf of fescue, bluegrass, or other exotic grass. Mowing one time a year, during the non-growing season, would seem to accomplish the suppression of any woody growth posing a safety hazard, and allow a full growing season for desirable herbaceous plants. One time mowing would not only be beneficial for the plants, but would also reduce the expense caused by frequent mowing.

Synopsis: Reduce mowing frequency to one time a year.

6) The maintenance of natural hydrologies is critical to the occurrence of wetland species present at JPG. This is especially true in the flatwoods area of the property. These poorly drained flats are host to most of the wetland plants at JPG; ditching and the subsequent draining of them would certainly lower natural diversity. Conversely, riparian biota would suffer from too much water, such as would be caused by the damming of free-flowing streams.

Synopsis: Prohibit the draining of flats and other wetlands; prohibit the construction of dams.

7) Fire appears to be one of the most important factors in shaping the appearance of the landscape at JPG. By our accounts fire has been beneficial to the natural communities, including the wet flatwoods. We noted a greater diversity and vigor of herbaceous plants in the burned areas (compared to the unburned); even large-canopy trees appeared for the most part to be unaffected. Continuation of burning in areas so treated previously, and even expansion into untreated areas, is a prescription that we think will help in maintaining the biodiversity of IPC.

Synopsis: Continue fire treatment and expand into previously unburned areas.

8) As stated earlier, we were not able to survey many areas because of access limitations and/or restrictions (Figure 5). Our impression from surveying other areas is that JPG has excellent potential for rare species populations throughout the property. Given that potential, we recommend that, as clean-up and reuse decisions are made, additional rare species surveys be conducted to evaluate that additional potential.

Synopsis: Conduct additional rare species surveys as clean-up and reuse progresses.

Scientific name

Common name

a grass

honewort

Upland Forest (includes mesic, dry-mesic, and dry types)

Acer saccharum sugar maple white baneberry Actaea alba Adiantum pedatum maidenhair fern Allium burdickii onion Allium tricoccum wood leak Amphicarpaea bracteata hog peanut Aquilegia canadensis wild columbine Arisaema triphyllum small Jack-in-the-pulpit Aristolochia serpentaria Virginia snakeroot Asarum canadense wild ginger Asimina triloba pawpaw Aster cordifolius

Aster cordifolius heart-leaved aster
Aster macrophyllus large-leaved aster
Aster shortii Short's aster

Athyrium pycnocarponnarrowleaf spleenwortAthyrium thelypterioidessilvery spleenwort

Brachyelytrum erectum

Cryptotaenia canadensis

Carex albursina a sedge Carex communis a sedge Carex laxiflora a sedge Carex rosea a sedge a sedge Carex virescens Carex woodii pretty sedge pignut hickory Carya glabra Carya laciniosa shellbark hickory Carya ovata shagbark hickory

Caulophyllum thalictroides blue cohosh Cercis canadensis redbud Chaerophyllum procumbens chervil Cimicifuga racemosa black bugbane Claytonia virginica spring beauty horse-balm Collinsonia canadensis Conopholis americana squawroot Corallorhiza odontorhiza late coralroot

Cypripedium calceolus var. pubescens small yellow lady's slipper

Cystopteris protrusa fragile fern

Dentaria diphyllacrinklerootDentaria heteropyllaslender toothwortDentaria laciniatacut-leaved toothwortDesmodium glutinosumpointed-leaf tick trefoilDesmodium nudiflorumnaked-flower tick trefoil

Diarrhena americana a grass
Dioscorea quaternata wild yam

Dirca palustris Upland Forest continued

leatherwood

Erigenia bulbosa Erythronium americanum Euonymus obovatus Eupatorium rugosum

Fagus grandifolia Festuca subverticillata Fraxinus americana Fraxinus quadrangulata

Galium circaezans Galium concinnum Galium triflorum Geranium maculatum

Hepatica acutiloba Hybanthus concolor Hydrastis canadensis Hydrophyllum canadense Hystrix patula

Jeffersonia diphylla Juglans nigra

Laportea canadensis Lindera benzoin Liparis liliifolia Liquidambar styraciflua Liriodendron tulipifera

Monarda spp.

Nyssa sylvatica

Osmorhiza claytonii Ostrya virginiana

Panax quinquefolium

Panicum boscii
Parthenocissus quinquefolia
Phlox divaricata
Phryma leptostachya
Pilea pumila
Podophyllum peltatum

Polygonatum pubescens Polygonum virginiana Polymnia canadensis Polystichum acrostichoides Prenanthes altissima Prunus serotina harbinger-of-spring

trout lily

running euonymus white snakeroot

American beech nodding fescue white ash blue ash

wild licorice shining bedstraw sweet-scented bedstraw wild geranium

Hepatica green violet goldenseal

broad-leaved waterleaf

bottle-brush

twinleaf black walnut

wood nettle spicebush large twayblade sweetgum tulip tree

beebalm

black gum

sweet cicely hop hornbeam

American ginseng large-fruited panic grass Virginia creeper wild blue phlox lopseed clearweed mayapple hairy Solomon's seal Virginia knotweed small-flower leafcup Christmas fern tall white lettuce black cherry

Upland Forest continued

Quercus alba Quercus muhlenbergii Quercus rubra

Sanicula canadensis

Sanicula gregaria Sanicula trifoliata Sassafras albidum Scutellaria incana Sedum ternatum Silene stellata Silene virginica Smilacena racemosa Smilax hispida Smilax rotundifolia Solidago caesia Solidago flexicaulis Staphylea trifolia Stellaria pubera

Thelypteris hexagonoptera Tilia americana Trillium flexipes Trillium sessile

Ulmus rubra Uvularia grandiflora

Valariana pauciflora Verbesina alternifolia Viburnum acerifolium Viburnum prunifolium Viola canadensis Viola pubescens Viola rostrata Viola sororia Vitis aestivalis white oak chinquapin oak Northern red oak

short-styled snakeroot clustered snakeroot long-fruited snakeroot sassafras

sassafras downy skullcap wild stonecrop starry catchfly firepink

false Solomon's seal hispid greenbrier roundleaf greenbrier blue-stemmed goldenrod zigzag goldenrod American bladdernut great chickweed

broad beech fern American basswood drooping trillium toadshade

slippery elm

large-flowered bellwort

large-flower valarian yellow ironweed mapleleaf viburnum black haw Canada violet downy yellow violet long-spurred violet downy blue violet summer grape Scientific name

Common name

Flatwoods (includes all successional stages)

Acer rubrum
Agalinis fasciculata
Agrimonia pubescens
Agrostis perennans
Andropogon virginicus
Aster umbellatus
Athyrium felix-femina

Bartonia paniculata Boehmeria cylindrica

Botrychium dissectum var. obliquum Botrychium oneidense

Carex bromoides
Carex cf. artitecta
Carex crinita
Carex debilis
Carex gracillima
Carex grayii
Carex intumescens
Carex laxiflora
Carex louisianica
Carex rosea
Carex swanii

Carex swanii
Carpinus carolinianus
Carya ovata
Cinna arundinacea
Claytonia virginica

Desmodium paniculatum Dryopteris carthusiana Dryopteris cristata

Eleocharis tenuis Eupatorium fistulosum Eupatorium hyssopifolium Eupatorium perfoliatum

Eupatorium rotundifolium Eupatorium serotinum Euthamia graminifolium

Fagus grandifolia Fraxinus pennsylvanica

Galium obtusum Galium triflorum Glyceria striata red maple clustered foxglove agrimony upland bent grass broom sedge flat-topped aster lady fern

twining bartonia false nettle

lace-frond grape-fern blunt-lobed grape-fern

a sedge
Louisiana sedge

a sedge
a sedge
blue beech
shagbark hickory
woodreed
spring beauty

panicled tick trefoil wood fern crested fern

spike-rush trumpetweed hyssop-leaved boneset

boneset

round-leaved boneset late-flowering boneset flat-topped goldenrod

American beech green ash

bedstraw

sweet-scented bedstraw fowl mannagrass

Flatwoods continued

Helenium flexulosum sneezeweed

Hieraceum caespitosum yellow king-devil hawkweed

Hieraceum gronovii hairy hawkweed Hieraceum scabrum rough hawkweed

Ilex verticillata winterberry

Juncus biflorusa rushJuncus brachycarpusa rushJuncus diffusissimusa rushJuncus effusussoft rushJuncus marginatusa rushJuncus tenuispath rush

Leersia virginica whitegrass Lindera benzoin spicebush Linum medium common yellow flax Linum striatum ridged yellow flax Linum virginiana wild yellow flax Liquidambar styraciflua sweetgum Liriodendron tulipifera tulip tree cardinal flower Lobelia cardinalis Lobelia inflata Indian tobacco Ludwigia alternifolia seedbox Lycopodium clavatum running pine

 Lycopodium digitatum
 southern ground-cedar

 Lycopodium obscurum
 tree clubmoss

 Lygodium palmatum
 climbing fern

Medeola virginiana Indian cucumber root

Mitchella repens partridgeberry

Nyssa sylvatica black gum

Onoclea sensibilissensitive fernOsmunda cinnamomeacinnamon fernOsmunda regalisroyal fern

Panax trifolium dwarf ginseng Panicum anceps panic grass Panicum microcarpon panic grass Parthenocissus quinquefolia Virginia creeper Platanus occidentalis sycamore Podophyllum peltatum mayapple Polygala sanguinea purple milkwort Polygala verticillata whorled milkwort

Polygonum virginiana Virginia knotweed
Pycnanthemum tenuifolium narrow-leaved mountain mint

Flatwoods continued

Rubus hispidus

Quercus alba white oak

Quercus michauxii swamp chestnut oak

Quercus palustrispin oakQuercus rubraNorthern red oak

Ranunculus hispidus hispid buttercup Rhus radicans poison ivy

Sassafras albidumsassafrasScirpus atrovirensa bulrushScirpus cyperinuswool grassScutellaria laterifloramad-dog skullcapSmilax rotundifoliaroundleaf greenbrierSolidago rugosarough-stemmed goldenrodSpiranthes cernuanodding ladies'-tresses

swamp dewberry

Spiraea tomentosa hardhack

Thelypteris hexagonoptera broad beech fern Thelypteris noveboracensis broad beech fern

Ulmus americana American elm

Viburnum dentatumsouthern arrowwoodViola blandasmooth white violet

Vitis labrusca fox grape

Woodwardia areolata netted chain-fern

This showy wildflower is abundant at JPG, especially in young flatwoods and mowed road borders. This species was not known to occur in Indiana until its discovery in Spencer County in the early 1980's. Since then several populations have been found, and *A. fasciculata* is no longer a threatened species in Indiana. See Appendix C for illustration.

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Bartonia paniculata twining bartonia Endangered in Indiana Gentianaceae Gentian Family

This tiny Atlantic coastal plain species was previously known in Indiana from only two sites, both of which are in the southeastern section of the state. In the survey area, it occurs abundantly in regrowth successional flatwoods. See Appendix C for illustration.

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Botrychium oneidense blunt-lobed grape-fern Rare in Indiana Ohioglossaceae Adder's Tongue Family

A fern of more northern affinities, *B. oneidense* is a characteristic member of the wet, acidic flatwoods in southeastern Indiana. Oddly, only one population was found at JPG, perhaps because it is not normally very visible during the growing season (obscured by other vegetation). Winter is the best time to inventory for this species.

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Carex abscondita thicket sedge Watch List in Indiana Cyperaceae Sedge Family

Only one population was found of this low-growing sedge. It is easily overlooked, and therefore may be more common at JPG than our survey indicates. It prefers mesic to dry-mesic upland forest environments.

This colonial sedge is a southern species that reaches the northern edge of its range in southern Indiana. It occurs for the most part in wet and wet-mesic floodplain forests, but is also known from wet flatwoods, such as at JPG. At JPG it is uncommon, apparently restricted to those flatwoods that have had minimal soil disturbance.

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Carex woodii pretty sedge Rare in Indiana Cyperaceae Sedge Family

This sedge was previously known in Indiana no further south than Marion County, in the central part of the state. However, it is apparent that this species has been overlooked in the past and will probably prove to be more common with future field work. It was found in mesic upland forest in the survey area. See Appendix C for illustration.

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Chimaphila maculata spotted wintergreen Watch List in Indiana Pyrolaceae Shinleaf Family

Although found at only one site at JPG, this small trailing shrub probably occurs at several sites on the property. It is a colonizer of early to mid-successional forests on acid soils; such conditions are common at JPG.

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Cimicifuga racemosa black bugbane Watch List in Indiana Ranunculaceae Buttercup Family

This is perhaps Indiana's tallest member of the buttercup family, occurring sparingly in mesic forests throughout much of southern Indiana. It is not uncommon in the mesic ravines bordering the larger streams that flow through the northern portion of JPG, e.g., Otter Creek, Graham Creek, etc.

Prior to its discovery in the survey area, this inconspicuous species was known only from a post oak barrens in Spencer County in southwestern Indiana. At the JPG, the species was found at a single site in dry eroded soils in full sunlight. Interestingly, it was co-occurring with another rare plant previously known only from southwestern Indiana, the slick seed wild-bean (*Strophostyles leiosperma*).

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Dentaria diphylla crinkleroot Rare in Indiana Brassicaceae Mustard Family

Restricted in Indiana to the southeastern portion, this toothwort is commonly associated with sandy soils near limestone outcroppings. In addition to these cliff areas, it was found in more mesic soils as well as a single population in floodplain forest. It is similar in appearance to the more common *Dentaria heterophylla* (slender toothwort) of which it may be associated. Both species have a pair of basal leaves and a pair of upper stem leaves. The upper and basal leaves of crinkleroot are roughly the same size. In slender toothwort, the upper leaves are much narrower than its basal leaves.

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Eupatorium rotundifolium round-leaved boneset Endangered in Indiana Asteraceae Aster Family

A plant of the southeastern U.S., this attractive boneset was known only from a handful of sites in southeastern Indiana prior to the survey. It was a fairly common sight in open wet flats and regrowth successional flatwoods in the survey area.

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Hydrastis canadensis goldenseal Watch List in Indiana Ranunculaceae Buttercup Family

Distributed statewide, this species was occasionally in rich, moist soils of mesic upland forests throughout the survey area. See Appendix C for illustration.

Ridged yellow flax has two principal ranges in Indiana: northwest and southeast parts of the state. Although there are several historical collections, only two have been made in the last few decades. One of those was made during our inventory of JPG.

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Lycopodium clavatum running pine Rare in Indiana Lycopodiaceae Clubmoss Family

A fern ally of more northern distribution, this "running pine" surprisingly occurs in the flatwoods of southeastern Indiana as well. In some of the early successional flatwoods at JPG it forms large carpets; most populations are not as dense.

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Lycopodium obscurum tree clubmoss Endangered in Indiana Lycopodiaceae Clubmoss Family

Like *L. clavatum*, this northern clubmoss also occurs in southeastern Indiana flatwoods. The identity of this taxon is tentative, as it appears to be intermediate between *L. obscurum* and *L. hickeyi*. Regardless of which taxon is present, the plant is uncommon at JPG, and in Indiana as a whole.

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Lygodium palmatum climbing fern Endangered in Indiana Schizaeaceae Curly Grass Family

With its discovery in a regrowth flatwoods, this species was recorded for the first time in Indiana. Less than ten colonies of this distinctive fern were found in a relatively small area. Clambering over adjacent vegetation, it was associated with *Lycopodium digitatum* (ground cedar), etc.

See Appendix C for illustration.

Like several of the plants at JPG, small sundrops occurs in northern Indiana, skips central Indiana, and then occurs again in southeastern Indiana. This attractive plant thrives in full sun, and is one of the rare plants that occurs in infrequently mowed shoulders of JPG's roadways.

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Panax quinquefolium American ginseng Watch List in Indiana Araliaceae Ginseng Family

Ginseng is a plant of commercial interest, and its sale is monitored by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. It is not currently a rare plant in Indiana, but IDNR is tracking it to determine population trends. We did not encounter many plants at JPG, but many were probably overlooked. See Appendix C for illustration.

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Panax trifolium dwarf ginseng Rare in Indiana Araliaceae Ginseng Family

This small relative of the American ginseng is restricted in southeastern Indiana to acidic flatwoods. Only one population was found at JPG, but it undoubtedly occurs elsewhere; its ephemeral nature caused it to be overlooked in flatwoods inventoried later in the growing season.

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Platanthera lacera green-fringed orchis Watch List in Indiana Orchidaceae Orchid Family

A single plant of this inconspicuous orchid was seen at the base of a tree in regrowth flatwoods. Its distribution in Indiana is restricted to the northern tier counties and the southeastern part of the state. The species epithet refers to the fringe-like or lacerated lobes of the flower lip.

The purple fringeless orchis is one of Indiana's most attractive native orchids, as well as one of its more common. Surprisingly, only one population was discovered at JPG. Undoubtedly it occurs elsewhere on the property. See Appendix C for illustration.

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Rhexia mariana var. mariana Maryland meadow beauty Endangered in Indiana Melastomataceae Melastome Family

Primarily a coastal plain species, this attractive plant was found at only one site along a roadside in wet soils with *Solidago juncea* (early goldenrod), *Sabatia angularis* (rose pink), *Polygala sanguinea* (purple milkwort), *Helenium flexuosum* (sneezeweed), and *Rudbeckia hirta* (black-eyed Susan). This is the first record of this plant in this section of the state. It was previously known only from southwestern Indiana.

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Sagittaria australis longbeak arrowhead Endangered in Indiana Alismataceae Water Plantain Family

A small colony of this arrowleaf was discovered in a wet depression in full sun at the north end of JPG. This wetland species may occur elsewhere at JPG in ditches, ponds, and lakes.

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Spiranthes ovalis lesser ladies'-tresses Rare in Indiana

Orchidaceae Orchid Family

An inconspicuous member of the orchid family, this ladies'-tresses prefers sparsely forested sites as opposed to those in full sun (the preferred habitat of most *Spiranthes*). JPG offers a tremendous amount of habitat for *S. ovalis*, but we encountered only one population.

One population of *S. tuberosa* was discovered growing in an eroded old field near Otter Creek. This appears to be near the northern limit of its range in eastern Indiana. Because this orchid prefers dry, sterile, thinly vegetated sites, reforestation of eroded old fields would bring about its demise.

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Strophostyles leiosperma slick seed wild-bean Threatened in Indiana Fabaceae Pea Family

This species of wild bean was discovered growing on a dry road bank at the north end of JPG. This occurrence is considerably disjunct from other populations in southwest and northwest Indiana. Interestingly, the wild bean was growing with another disjunct, *Crotonopsis elliptica*; both occur in JPG at only this one site.

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Veratrum woodii false hellebore Watch List in Indiana Liliaceae Lily Family

A conspicuous, large-leaved herb of mesic environments, most plants of the false hellebore found at JPG grow on steep, moist limestone slopes and forested hillsides. This species has a propensity for alkaline substrates, and is therefore confined in JPG to those entrenched valleys where limestone crops out, e.g., Otter Creek, Graham Creek, etc. See Appendix C for illustration.

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Viola blanda smooth white violet Rare in Indiana Violaceae Violet Family

In Indiana, this tiny violet occurs as a disjunct in northwestern and southeastern counties. In the survey area it was found in slightly acid soils of flatwoods and in sandy soils above and below exposed limestone cliffs.

This conspicuous fern is primarily restricted to southeastern Indiana from counties bordering the Ohio River, although there is a single extant occurrence from Porter County. It was found in flatwoods in the survey area. Superficially, the species resembles the more common sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*), but is more alternately branched, is finely serrated along the margins, and is deeper green in color. See Appendix C for illustration.

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